Award of Offshore Oil Exploration

998. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have awarded oil exploration at offshore areas to Indian private firms and foreign firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these areas are already earmarked for ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During 1992—96, Government of India has approved award of 35 exploration blocks. Out of these 12 are offshore blocks. Production Sharing Contracts have been signed for five offshore exploration blocks so far as per details given below:—

Block Name	Consortium with whom contract signed.
KG-OS-90/1	(i) Hardy Oil & Gas, UK (ii) Hindustan Oil Exploration Co., India (iii) Niko Resources, Canada (iv) Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., India.
CY-OS-90/1	(i) Vaalco Energy Inc., (ii) HOEC, India (iii) Tata Petrodyne Ltd., India (iv) ONGC
BB-OS/5	(i) Essar Oil Ltd., India
CY-OS/2	(i) Vaalco Energy Inc., USA (ii) HOEC, India (iii) Tata Petrodyne Ltd., India
CB-OS/1	(i) Hardy Exploration & Production (India) Inc. (ii) HOEC, India (iii) Tata Petrodyne Ltd., India (iv) ONGC

Contract for the block KG-OS-90/1 has since been closed. In addition to above Government of India has also approved awards for following blocks, contracts for which are yet to be signed:

GK-OS/5	(i) Okland Oil Company, USA (ii) Rexwood Corp., USA
KG-OS/6	(i) Command Petroleum Holding NL Australia (ii) Videocon Industries, India
CB-OS/2	(i) Command Petroleum Holding NL Australia (ii) Tata Petrodyne Ltd., India (iii) ONGC
GK-OSJ-1	(i) Larsen & Toubro Ltd., India (ii) Tullow Oil Plc., Ireland (iii) Joshi Technologies Inc., U.S.A.

Contract could not be finalised for one block and matter has been closed. Final decision has not been taken in the remaining two blocks.

(c) ONGC has option to acquire an interest of 10% at the beginning of contract and additional 30% at the time of commercial discovery except for the block GK-OSJ-1, where ONGC would have 25% interest from the beginning.

Supply of gas to Pipavav Power Project

999. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister pf PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a long-standing demand for the supply of gas to Pipavav power project in Gujarat for which the proposal is pending with the Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Gujarat has made a number of representations to Government for the supply of gas for this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by government or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Requests have been received from time to time from Government of Gujarat for allocation of gas to the Pipavav Power Project.

(c) It was decided in 1989 to allocate gas from the yet to be developed Mid & South Tapti fields to a power project to be put up at Pipavav and take gas from Gandhar fields to the HBJ pipeline system. However, subsequently keeping in view the fact that the investment decisions to develop Mid and South Tapti fields were yet to be taken, it was agreed to allocate the Gandhar gas for two gas based power projects of 600 MW each in Gandhar area and to take the gas from Mid & South Tapti fields to meet the existing commitments along the HBJ pipeline system. The Government of Gujarat have been advised accordingly.

Distinction between poor and non-poor

1000. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how Government distinguish between poor and non-poor;

(b) whether Government are of the view that those who are above the poverty line are non-poor;

(c) whether Government are aware that for a scientific approach of planning it demands categorical distinction in analysis of all segments of society in order to get correct picture of socio economic movement, crisis and potentiality; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The poor are distinguished from the total population on the basis of poverty line, which is defined at national level as monthly per capita consumer expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.65 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas.

(b) The poverty line focusses on the purchasing power needed to meet the specific calorie intake standard with some margin for non-food consumption needs such as clothing, education, shelter, health etc. People with per capita consumption expenditure above the poverty line have the potential to consume the basket of goods and services which ensures a minimum standard of living.

(c) and (d) Successive five year plans have distinguished between various categories of people for the purposes of